

APPOQUINIMINK COMMUNITY LIBRARY

**118 Silver Lake Road
Middletown, Delaware 19709
(302) 376-4190**

In 1901, the first library in Middletown was initiated through the impetus of the Middletown New Century Club. The original library was located on Main Street. When a fire destroyed the building in 1922, the Public Library Committee struggled to continue to provide service, but were forced to close in October 1926.

Service began again in 1931, with the library becoming part of the "station library system" operated by the New Castle County Free Public Library. The station library was serviced by bookmobiles that traveled around the county to bring new books and rotate the older materials.

In 1963, the library became a school district library and moved yet again into part of the historic Old Academy Building on North Broad Street. The building, which had served as a school from 1827 to 1928, officially became known as the Appoquinimink Public Library in 1971.

The Appoquinimink Public Library joined the new New Castle County Department of Libraries as a contractual member in 1974, and became a full member of the County Library system in 1994.

Finally in the early 1990's, discussions developed around the concept of a combined public high school and library. The idea, championed by Governor Thomas Carper and State Representative Ada Leigh Soles, became a real possibility when plans were developed for a new high school in Middletown. Seen as a true Community Center, the new school building was designed to house not just a high school but also a State Service Center and the Appoquinimink Library.

Key Individuals

Glady's Shivery was the Library's first paid librarian (1967-1979). *Thomas Borecki* served as president of the board during the 1990's. He was instrumental in guiding the Library through the transition to a full county library in 1994. *Governor Thomas Carper* and State Representative *Ada Leigh Soles* helped develop a vision of community services with a public high school/library concept.